

What is Claimed is:

para 1 1. An interactive television program guide system comprising:
a plurality of user television equipment devices interconnected by communications paths and located in a household and on at least two of which devices interactive television program guides are implemented;

means associated with at least one of said interactive television program guides for adjusting interactive television program guide settings; and

means for coordinating the operation of said interactive television program guides so that the program guide settings that are adjusted using said means for adjusting are effective on at least one of the interactive television program guides other than the interactive television program guide implemented on the television equipment device with which the means for adjusting is associated.

2. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for selecting the interactive television program guides on which the adjusted program guide settings will be effective.

3. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein said means for selecting uses input from a user.

4. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein said means for selecting uses a default location.

pub 247 5. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein said means for selecting uses other factors to determine the location.

6. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of the user television equipment devices comprises a set-top box.

7. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for adjusting permits adjusting parental control settings.

pub 257 8. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for adjusting permits adjusting favorites.

9. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for adjusting permits adjusting profiles.

pub 267 10. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for adjusting permits adjusting set recording settings.

pub 267 11. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for adjusting permits adjusting pay-per view settings.

12. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for adjusting permits adjusting messages settings.

sub a-77 13. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for adjusting permits adjusting set up settings.

14. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein one of the user television equipment devices is a primary user television equipment device and the other user television equipment devices are secondary user television equipment devices.

15. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 14 wherein the communications paths are configured to connect each one of the secondary user television equipment devices to the primary user television equipment device.

16. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the communications paths are configured to connect the user television equipment devices in a tree topology.

17. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the communications paths are configured to connect the user television equipment devices in a ring topology.

18. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the communications paths are configured to connect the user television equipment devices in a bus topology.

19. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the household

comprises a home, the system further comprises a server in the household to which each of the user television equipment devices is connected in a client-server interactive television program guide configuration.

20. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein one of the user television equipment devices comprises a set-top box and at least a television and other user television equipment devices in the household comprise a television but not a set-top box, each of the user television equipment devices being interconnected with the set-top box.

21. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the household comprises one home among a plurality of homes, the system further comprising a server located outside the plurality of homes, the server being configured to provide interactive television program guide functions to the homes.

22. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the household comprises first and second homes, wherein one of the user television equipment devices is located in the first home and one other one of the user television equipment devices is located in the second home, the giving interactive television program guide being implemented on the user television equipment devices that is located in the first home and another one of the interactive television program guides being implemented on the other one of the user television equipment devices that is located in the second home.

23. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for providing an assign location screen to the user.

24. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the household comprises a home with multiple rooms at least two of which each contain one of the user television equipment devices on which one of the interactive television program guides is implemented, the system further comprising means for selecting the interactive television program guides on which the adjusted program guide settings are to be effective by selecting certain rooms.

25. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for allowing the user to monitor the television viewing of users at interactive television program guides other than the interactive television program guide on the user television equipment with which the means for adjusting is associated.

26. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for adjusting permits adjusting maximum rating allowed settings.

27. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for adjusting permits adjusting pay per view settings; further comprising means for displaying information to the user on the interactive television program guide on the user television equipment device

associated with the means for adjusting is implemented regarding a cost associated with each extra program guide location within the household that is authorized to view ^a the pay-per-view television program purchased by the user.

28. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising:

means for sending messages to viewers at interactive television program guides other than the interactive television program guide on the user television equipment with which the means for adjusting is associated.

29. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for adjusting permits adjusting the channel setting at a remote location.

~~suba 30.~~ 30. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for disallowing monitoring of a selected location.

~~suba 31.~~ 31. An interactive television program guide system comprising:
a plurality of user television equipment devices interconnected by communications paths and located in a household and on at least two of which devices interactive television program guides are implemented;

at least one of said interactive television program guides configured to adjust interactive television program guide settings; and

at least one of said interactive television program guides configured to coordinate the operation of said interactive television program guides so that program guide settings adjusted by at least one of one of said guides configured to adjust program settings are effective on at least one of the interactive television program guides other than the interactive television program guide implemented on the television equipment device configured to adjust program guide settings.

32. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein at least one of one of said guides configured to allow the selection of the interactive television program guides on which the adjusted program guide settings will be effective.

33. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 32 wherein settings are effective on an interactive television program guide selected by a user.

34. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 32 wherein settings are effective on an interactive television program guide selected by default.

35. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 32 wherein settings are effective on an interactive television program guides selected based on other factors.

36. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 32 wherein at least one of the

user television equipment devices comprises a set-top box.

37. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the settings adjusted include parental control settings.

prior art 38. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the settings adjusted include favorites.

prior art 39. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the settings adjusted include set recording settings.

prior art 40. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the settings adjusted include pay-per view settings.

41. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the settings adjusted include messages settings.

prior art 42. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the settings adjusted include set up settings.

43. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein one of the user television equipment devices is a primary user television equipment device and the other user television equipment devices are secondary user television equipment devices.

44. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the communications paths are configured to connect each one of the secondary user television equipment devices to the primary user television equipment device.

45. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the communications paths are configured to connect the user television equipment devices in a tree topology.

46. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the communications paths are configured to connect the user television equipment devices in a ring topology.

47. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the communications paths are configured to connect the user television equipment devices in a bus topology.

48. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the household comprises a home, the system further comprises a server in the household to which each of the user television equipment devices is connected in a client-server interactive television program guide configuration.

49. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein one of the user television equipment devices comprises a set-top box and at least a television and other user television equipment devices in the household comprise a television but not a set-top box, each of the user

television equipment devices being interconnected with the set-top box.

50. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the household comprises one home among a plurality of homes, the system further comprising a server located outside the plurality of homes, the server being configured to provide interactive television program guide functions to the homes.

51. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the household comprises first and second homes, wherein one of the user television equipment devices is located in the first home and one other one of the user television equipment devices is located in the second home, the giving interactive television program guide being implemented on the user television equipment devices that is located in the first home and another one of the interactive television program guides being implemented on the other one of the user television equipment devices that is located in the second home.

52. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 further comprising an assign location screen.

53. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the household comprises a home with multiple rooms at least two of which each contain one of the user television equipment devices on which one of the interactive television program guides is implemented, the system further

comprising at least one of said interactive television program guides configured to select the interactive television program guides on which the adjusted program guide settings are to be effective by selecting certain rooms.

54. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 further comprising at least one of said interactive television program guides configured to allow the user to monitor the television viewing of users at interactive television program guides other than the interactive television program guide configured to allow the user to monitor the television viewing of users.

55. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the settings adjusted include maximum rating allowed settings.

56. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the settings adjusted include pay per view settings;

further comprising at least one of said interactive television program guides configured to display information to the user on the user television equipment device on which the interactive television program guide configured to adjust settings is implemented regarding a cost associated with each extra program guide location within the household that is authorized to view the pay-per-view television program purchased by the user.

57. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 further comprising:

at least one of said interactive television program guides configured to send messages to viewers at interactive television program guides other than the interactive television program guide configured to adjust settings is implemented.

58. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the settings adjusted include the channel setting.

59. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 31 further comprising:

further comprising at least one of said interactive television program guides configured to disallow the ability to monitor the television viewing of users at specified interactive television program guides other than the interactive television program guide configured to allow the user to monitor the television viewing of users.

60. A method for using an interactive television program guide system in which a plurality of user television equipment devices interconnected by communications paths and located in a household and on at least two of which devices interactive television program guides are implemented;

adjusting interactive television program guide settings with at least one of the interactive television program guides; and

coordinating the operation of said interactive television program guides so that program guide settings adjusted by at least one of one of said interactive television program guides are effective on at least one of the interactive television program

guides other than the interactive television program guide implemented on the television equipment device used to adjust program guide settings.

61. The method of claim 60 further comprising selecting the interactive television program guides on which the adjusted program guide settings will be effective.

62. The method defined in claim 61 wherein a user selects the interactive television program guides on which the adjusted program guide settings will be effective.

63. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 61 wherein a system default selects the interactive television program guides on which the adjusted program guide settings will be effective.

64. The interactive television program guide system defined in claim 61 wherein other factors are used to select the interactive television program guides on which the adjusted program guide settings will be effective.

65. The method of claim 60 wherein at least one of the user television equipment devices comprises a set-top box.

66. The method of claim 60 wherein the settings adjusted include parental control settings.

~~505a17~~ 67. The method of claim 60 wherein the settings adjusted include favorites.

~~505a17~~ 68. The method of claim 60 wherein the settings adjusted include set recording settings.

~~505a17~~ 69. The method of claim 60 wherein the settings adjusted include pay-per view settings.

70. The method of claim 60 wherein the settings adjusted include messages settings.

~~505a15~~ 71. The method of claim 60 wherein the settings adjusted include set up settings.

72. The method of claim 60 wherein one of the user television equipment devices is a primary user television equipment device and the other user television equipment devices are secondary user television equipment devices.

73. The method of claim 60 wherein the communications paths are configured to connect each one of the secondary user television equipment devices to the primary user television equipment device.

74. The method of claim 60 wherein the communications paths are configured to connect the user television equipment devices in a tree topology.

75. The method of claim 60 wherein the communications paths are configured to connect the user television equipment devices in a ring topology.

76. The method of claim 60 wherein the communications paths are configured to connect the user television equipment devices in a bus topology.

77. The method of claim 60 wherein the household comprises a home, the system further comprises a server in the household to which each of the user television equipment devices is connected in a client-server interactive television program guide configuration.

78. The method of claim 60 wherein one of the user television equipment devices comprises a set-top box and at least a television and other user television equipment devices in the household comprise a television but not a set-top box, each of the user television equipment devices being interconnected with the set-top box.

79. The method of claim 60 wherein the household comprises one home among a plurality of homes, the system further comprising a server located outside the plurality of homes, the server being configured to provide interactive television program guide functions to the homes.

80. The method of claim 60 wherein the household comprises first and second homes, wherein one of the user television equipment devices is located in the first home and one other one of the user television equipment devices is located in the second home, the giving interactive television program guide being implemented on the user television equipment devices that is located in the first home and another one of

the interactive television program guides being implemented on the other one of the user television equipment devices that is located in the second home.

~~81. The method of claim 49 further comprising viewing an assign location screen.~~

82. The method of claim 60 wherein the household comprises a home with multiple rooms at least two of which each contain one of the user television equipment devices on which one of the interactive television program guides is implemented, the method further comprising selecting the interactive television program guides on which the adjusted program guide settings are to be effective by selecting certain rooms.

83. The method of claim 60 further comprising monitoring the television viewing of users at interactive television program guides other than the interactive television program guide on the user television equipment used to adjust settings.

84. The method of claim 60 wherein the settings adjusted include maximum rating allowed settings.

~~85. The method of claim 60 wherein the settings adjusted include pay per view settings; further comprising display information to the user on the user television equipment device on which the interactive television program guide used to adjust settings is implemented regarding a cost associated with each extra program guide location~~

within the household that is authorized to view the pay-per-view television program purchased by the user.

86. The method of claim 60 further comprising:

sending messages to viewers at interactive television program guides other than the interactive television program guide on the user television equipment used to adjust settings.

87. The method of claim 60 further comprising adjusting the channel setting at a remote location.

88. The method of claim 60 further comprising disallowing monitoring of a selected location.

89. A system comprising:
a plurality of user television equipment devices interconnected by communications paths and located in a household, wherein the user television equipment devices include set-top boxes and wherein an application is implemented on each set-top box;

means for providing an opportunity for a user to adjust settings associated with a given one of the applications implemented on a given one of the set-top boxes; and

means for coordinating the operation of the applications so that the settings of the given application implemented on the given set-top box that are adjusted are used by at least one of the other applications implemented on another one of the set-top boxes.

90. A system comprising:

a plurality of user television equipment devices interconnected by communications paths and located in a household, wherein the user television equipment devices include set-top boxes, wherein an application is implemented on each set-top box, and wherein the user television equipment devices are configured to allow a user to adjust settings associated with a given one of the applications implemented on a given one of the set-top boxes, and are configured to coordinate the operation of the applications so that the settings of the given application implemented on the given set-top box that are adjusted are used by at least one of the other applications implemented on another one of the set-top boxes.

91. A method for using a system in which a plurality of user television equipment devices are interconnected by communications paths located in a household, wherein the user television equipment devices include set-top boxes, and wherein an application is implemented on each set-top box, comprising:

providing an opportunity for a user to adjust settings associated with a given one of the applications implemented on a given one of the set-top boxes; and

coordinating the operation of the applications so that the settings of the given application implemented on the given one of the set-top boxes that are adjusted are used by at least one of the other applications on another one of the set-top boxes.

505a(97) 92. An interactive television program guide system based on multiple user television equipment devices in a single household, comprising:

a plurality of user television equipment devices interconnected by communications paths and located in a single household and on which a plurality of interactive television program guides are implemented;

means for providing an opportunity for a user at a given one of the plurality of interactive television program guides to adjust program guide settings with the one of said plurality of interactive television program guides; and

means for coordinating the operation of the plurality of interactive television program guides so that the program guide settings that are adjusted with the given one of the plurality of interactive television program guides are used by at least another one of the plurality of interactive television program guides during operation of the plurality of interactive program guides.

505a(97) 93. An interactive television program guide system based on multiple user television equipment devices in a single household, comprising:

a plurality of user television equipment devices interconnected by communications paths and located in a single household and on which a plurality of interactive television program guides are implemented, wherein the plurality of user television equipment devices are configured to:

provide an opportunity for a user to adjust program guide settings with a given one of the plurality of interactive television program guides; and

coordinate the operation of the plurality of interactive television program guides so that the program guide settings that are adjusted with the given one of the plurality of interactive television program guides are used by at least another one of the plurality of interactive television program guides during operation of the plurality of interactive program guides.

94. A method for using an interactive television program guide system based on multiple user television equipment devices in a single household, wherein the system has a plurality of user television equipment devices on which interactive television program guides are implemented and wherein the user television equipment devices are interconnected by communications paths and located in a single household, comprising:

providing an opportunity for a user at a given one of the plurality of interactive television program guides to adjust program guide settings with that given one of the plurality of interactive television program guides; and

coordinating the operation of said plurality of interactive television program guides so that the program guide settings that are adjusted with the given one of the plurality of interactive television program guides are used by at least another one of the plurality of interactive television program guides during operation of the plurality of interactive program guides.

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